

DDI-1578-74

24 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : OPR Study on India

1. I appreciate your interest in wanting to get some kind of community chop on this paper, specifically INR's. But in this case I think we have a non-starter that would only result in a weakening of a good paper. Our past experience with any attempt to coordinate, to consult, or to share views with INR when the subject is India is that the exercise is always counter-productive. Frankly, the INR staffers have managed somehow to cling to an extraordinarily optimistic view of India's future despite the weight of evidence to the contrary; they have, moreover, succeeded in mucking up earlier analyses of India's problems (e.g., the NIE published last fall).

2. I propose that we go ahead with issuance of the OPR paper (with the textual changes we have made in response to your suggestions), carrying a FOREWORD as follows:

This Study presents a stark picture of India's future. Virtually all observers of the Indian scene would agree that the problem confronting the Indian Government will become extremely serious over the next few years. Some would argue that the leaders in New Delhi can nonetheless find some way of muddling through. The argument here is simply that the chances of extensive trouble leading to crisis are quite high, and it is therefore only prudent to consider the international implications which could flow from a strife-torn Asian subcontinent.

PAUL V. WALSH
Acting Deputy Director
for Intelligence

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